

CLAIMS IN MEXICO

American Citizens Seek Damages Aggregating \$475,000,000.

PILING UP PAST TWO YEARS.

Mexico Will Readily Obtain Loan Through Influence of This Government as Soon as Investigations by Ambassador Fletcher Satisfy President Stable Government Exists.

Washington.—Claims against the Mexican government from American citizens for loss of lives and property amount to \$475,000,000, and those of foreign governments filed with the state department bring the total against the southern republic to more than \$1,000,000,000.

These claims have been piling up for the last two years, and it is believed those now presented to the state department represent about all of the valid ones. As a more stable government is established in Mexico American citizens and foreign governments are pressing their demands for payment.

The situation is one of the utmost concern, not only to the United States, responsible to our citizens for the settlement of their claims against Mexico for the loss of oil property, mines and lives, but also those of foreigners. As to claims of foreign governments, the



Photo by American Press Association.
HENRY P. FLETCHER.

United States has no legal concern, but as much as it assumed control over the situation under the Monroe doctrine it will exert its diplomatic influence to see that these claims are paid. American and English capital to the amount of \$1,500,000,000 is invested in Mexico, and in the last three years the revolution has damaged the mines and oil wells, in addition to piling up claims for the loss of lives of foreigners.

Mexico needs money badly not only to begin payment on these claims, but to re-establish her domestic affairs. The new ambassador from Mexico to this country, Ignacio Bonillas, fully explained the financial needs of his country to President Wilson, when he received here recently.

Since then this government has been considering advancing a loan to Mexico. A member of the administration expresses the opinion that Mexico will readily obtain a loan through the influence of this government as soon as investigations by Ambassador Fletcher satisfy President Wilson that a stable government exists. No other country will consider a loan to Mexico, and this government will not aid Mexico financially until a stronger government is set up.

HE FEARED CONSCRIPTION.

Married Bridegroom Tries to Kill Wife and Himself.

Middletown, N. Y.—Fearing he would be conscripted for war and that he would have to leave his seventeen-year-old bride, whom he married on Christmas day, Harry York, twenty-two years old, shot his wife, Anna York, in the head and then fired two bullets into his own brain.

Ever since it had been announced that men between twenty-one and thirty might have to go to France York was worried about leaving his bride. He was reading the questions to be answered by those registering for the conscription aloud to him when he suddenly pulled a revolver and without a word shot his wife and himself.

Wolf Pack Rounded Up.

Okla.—Twenty-one gray wolves, the largest pack reported in Oklahoma in years, was rounded up recently twelve miles northeast of Muskogee, Okla., by J. A. Scott and Boyce Scott. There were two old wolves and sixteen partly grown pups in the pack. The wolves were killed two of the dogs and several of the younger ones. The old wolves were the pups alive.

HERO MINUS LEG AND ARM SAVES GIRL, WINS A BRIDE

Maimed Expert Swimmer Snatches Miss King From the Surf.

New York.—The loss of his left arm and left leg did not prevent Ludger Gagne, Jr., of 20 Westland avenue, Boston, from being an expert swimmer or from saving Miss Louise King of 25 Salem street, Winchester, Mass., from drowning at Revere Beach last summer and eventually winning her for his bride.

When twelve years old, just half his present age, Gagne's swimming and diving records were considered marvelous. Then he fell beneath the wheels of a train and lost a leg and an arm. After his wounds had healed and although Boston harbor was full of whitecaps and storm signals were set he swam without trouble to Boston light, six miles out.

Gagne was talking to a life guard at Revere Beach last summer when cries for help came from the water. A girl was struggling a considerable distance from shore. Gagne reached the girl first. She was Miss King.

Gagne and Miss King became engaged. Her parents favored the match, but advised the young couple to wait until Louise was twenty-one. They vetoed the suggestion, however, and were married by Deputy City Clerk Cruise in the municipal building chapel, this city.

NEBRASKA'S CONVICTS

MAY GO TO THE FRONT

They Are to Be Drilled in Tactics by the Warden in the State Penitentiary.

Lincoln, Neb.—The state penitentiary is to be turned into a military garrison for a part of each day, and the state's prisoners will become soldiers if necessary. Warden Fenton has decided on military drill for practically all the convicts as soon as sham wooden guns can be made. Prison Secretary O'Connell, a member of the First Nebraska regiment in the Spanish-American war, will be drillmaster in chief.

Should the war with Germany reach such a stage as to become a drain on the citizens of the country Warden Fenton believes the younger prison inmates may be called to the front. He says he is adopting the military drill as one of preparedness.

The warden will himself take the training with his charges, and if the convicts are summoned to war he will offer his services. He is popular with the men, and they say they would want no better leader. Many have expressed their eagerness to enlist—three-quarters of them—the prison authorities say. There are about twenty former soldiers and sailors in the prison, and these are expected to act as aids to Secretary O'Connell in teaching the war game. The warden says he will see to it that the men lack nothing in knowledge.

He has issued a call to the three cooks in the prison that they show their patriotism by complying with the request of President Wilson with respect to wasting of foods. The penitentiary farm is to be enlarged materially.

HOARDING IS UNPATRIOTIC.

Boston Man Says Those Who Lay Up Food Are Traitors.

Boston.—Henry B. Endicott, executive manager of the Massachusetts committee on public safety, issued a statement asserting that the person who hoarded money and large quantities of provisions for an indefinite period "should be pointed out as a traitor to his country and to his fellow men."

"Certainly nothing could be further from patriotism or helpfulness to other people," he said, "than for a set of men who have money and credit to selfishly purchase an unusual amount of supplies for themselves and by so doing inflict upon their less wealthy neighbors the burden of unnecessarily high prices."

Food Grown Along Railroads.

Durham, N. C.—Vegetable gardens bordering the railroad tracks is a new idea in North Carolina to add to America's food supply in the world war. The Durham and Southern railway, owned principally by the Duke, wealthy New York tobaccoist, has offered its right of way for planting. It has furthermore offered free seed to encourage the growers.

+++++ FINDS WEDDING RING LOST FOR SEVEN YEARS +++++

Wilmington, Del.—It is not only the proverbial bad penny that frequently turns up, as is proved by the case of a long lost wedding ring. Seven years ago Mrs. Frank Carey of 1802 Gilpin avenue lost her wedding ring in the yard of the house in which she was then living. Recently it was returned to her by the present occupant of the house, who discovered it while planting flowers.

+++++ WOLF PACK ROUNDED UP. +++++

A RAILROAD ARMY

Will Build Up Lines of Traffic in France.

NINE REGIMENTS CALLED.

They Will Be Part of Regular Force, and at Head of Each Regiment as Colonel Will Be Engineer Officer of Army—Construction Will Be Main Work.

New York.—Need for expert railroad men to repair the lines in France is so pressing that an urgent call has been sent out by the railroads war board to the various roads of the country for assistance in organizing nine regiments of railroad men to go at once to France. They will be a part of the regular army, and at the head of each regiment as colonel will be an engineer officer of the army.

The plans of the board call for five construction regiments, one shop or repair regiment and three operating regiments. Construction will be the main work of the men sent over, but the repair and operating needs are hardly less immediate. A notice sent out by the railroads war board says:

"The French railways are badly run down. They need more or less complete rehabilitation. France has no men who can be spared for this work. She wants all her men at the front. Before we can train men to go into the trenches we can supply France's railroad wants, and we can do it practically immediately. Any men we send over must be soldiers, so it will be necessary for the railroad forces to enter the army."

"We propose to make up five construction regiments of six companies each to do this rehabilitation. Each regiment will have an engineer officer of the United States army as colonel and another officer from the army as an adjutant. The other officers will be made up of railroad men, except that the commissary will be provided by the United States army. Each lieutenant colonel will be a chief engineer of a railroad or some one else of similar experience. The captains will be taken from the engineers of maintenance of way, the lieutenants from supervisors or road masters and the noncommissioned officers from track and bridge foremen. The privates will be track laborers."

"The pressing need just now is for officers for these regiments. They will require five chief engineers, thirty engineers of maintenance of way, ninety supervisors or road masters, sixty track foremen and thirty bridge foremen. Each company will have 150 track laborers and fourteen bridge carpenters as privates."

"The next important requirement of the French railways is for shop forces. They are short of men to repair their locomotives. It is proposed to organize a shop regiment, to be made up the same way as the construction regiments, except that the lieutenant colonel will be a superintendent of motive power, the lieutenants will be master mechanics, the lieutenants will be shop foremen and the noncommissioned officers gang foremen. The rest of the company will be made up of boiler-makers, machinists, blacksmiths and their helpers."

TOY GUNS POPULAR.

Modeled After Anti-aircraft Weapons Used by Zeppelins.

Washington.—Teddy bears and miniature anti-aircraft guns are by far the most popular toys in Great Britain, says Consul Wilson in a report from London to the United States bureau of foreign and domestic commerce. Teddy bears have always been more or less popular, but recent events seem to have created a greatly increased demand for this toy.

The toy guns are modeled after the anti-aircraft guns which were brought into prominence by the visits of the Zeppelins.

Toys that find the most ready sale are those of a military character.

NEW FORM OF "CON" GAME.

Two Inches of Butter Spread on Sand Sold to Chicago Consumers.

Chicago, Ill.—A new form of confidence game has been practised with success here during the last few days. Several storekeepers and hospitals have reported to the police that they have purchased from agents tubs purporting to contain sixty pounds of butter, but have found when cutting into the tubs that the butter extended but one or two inches from the surface and that the rest of their purchase was sand.

The tubs were sold for as high as \$19.50, making the price of the butter in the neighborhood of \$4 a pound.

FAVORS DAYLIGHT SAVING.

President, However, in Doubt as to Necessary Legislation.

Washington.—President Wilson expressed his approval of the daylight saving plan to a delegation headed by Representative Borland of Missouri and Marcus Marks of New York, president of the National Daylight Saving association.

The president told them the only question in his mind about legislation to carry it into operation was whether congress leaders would look upon it as war legislation, to which they have tacitly agreed to limit the session's activities. The subject will be taken up with the leaders.

MAY EAT OAT BREAD.

Swedes Ask Permission to Sell It. Hunger Marches Continue.

Stockholm.—The Bakers' Association of Sweden presented a memorial to the state economic commission setting forth the difficulties of obtaining sufficient rye and wheat flour and asking the authorities to permit and to order them to use a certain proportion of oat or barley flour in bread. The bakers assert that the situation indicates with certainty that such a measure must be eventually resorted to and point out the advisability of doing it now instead of delaying until the time when the proportions of barley and oats must necessarily be greater than would be the case now.

A body of female factory workers estimated at 5,000 marched recently in an orderly manner through southern and western Stockholm to the office of the largest local milk company, where they demanded a better distribution of milk and lower prices.

Hunger demonstrations continue at various places in the kingdom.

METEOR LIKE SEARCHLIGHT.

Crashes Into Mountains and Illuminates Whole Valley.

Bishop, Cal.—Illuminating the upper Owens valley for half a minute like a searchlight in the skies, a meteor of extraordinary size and brilliancy flared across from east to west one night and brought up against the high Sierra Nevada.

There was a crash that could be heard for miles when the foreign body hit the mountain side far above the floor of the valley. It sounded like the impact of a projectile from a great gun against a fort.

Residents were startled by the passage of the mighty streak of blue-white fire through the darkness and again by the loud explosion that followed contact with the granite range which stopped it. Then followed a tumbling of dislodged stones not far from the camp of the Round Valley Tungsten company.

MORGAN ON PATROL DUTY.

Financier's Son Assigned to Ship. Young Iselin Also Enrolls.

New York.—Junius Spencer Morgan, son of J. P. Morgan, who recently received an ensign's commission in the naval coast defense reserve, was called into active service and assigned to duty on a coast patrol boat.

Ensign Morgan has always been interested in boats and sailing. Last summer he shipped as an ordinary seaman on the U. S. S. Maine for the civilian training cruise.

Adrian Iselin 2d, son of C. Oliver Iselin, who has sailed many cup defenders to victory, enrolled in the naval reserve as chief boatswain's mate.

Paul Nevin, son of the late Ethelbert Nevin, called at the naval reserve office to enroll. Mr. Nevin came from Tulsa, Okla. As a member of the civilian crew of the Maine last summer he made a record in gunnery.

DOG ADOPTS COYOTES.

Takes Four Into Her Charge on a Ranch.

Santa Ana, Cal.—Four coyote pups have been adopted by a mother dog on the ranch of Arthur Peffey, north of Santa Ana.

The coyotes were found in the foothills back of El Modena by Virgil Pritchard, a high school boy, whose dogs fought off the mother coyote while Virgil got away with the little coyotes. Clarence Peffey had a dog with two puppies.

The four strangers were put on the ground near the mother and the puppies, who were busily engaged in partaking of a meal. Rather bewildered, the coyotes crept to the mother dog. The dog eyed the coyotes, then when they approached she began licking them, and soon the coyotes were just as busily engaged in eating as were their cousins.

CHARLES P. TAFT 2D ENLISTS.

With Nine Yale Students Enters Artillery Service.

New Haven, Conn.—Charles P. Taft 2d, son of William Howard Taft and a junior in Yale college, enlisted for the artillery branch of the regular army with nine other undergraduates. All the enlistments were of students who were under age for the reserve officers' training corps of the university and all had consent of their parents. The squad will go to Fort Myer, Va.

The students who were enlisted with Taft were John M. Anderson, Jr., Cincinnati; Robert T. Cairns, Overbrook, Pa.; George H. Ennis, Jr., Derby, Conn.; John E. Fasick, Altoona, Pa.; Francis T. McNamara, Clinton, Mass.; Cyril B. Mosher, East Greenwich, R. I.; Albert H. Stackpole, Harrisburg, Pa.; H. S. Porter, Higganum, Conn.; Carl M. Thomas, St. Louis.

DROWNS BATHING TOY.

Child Falls From Claremont Boat Club's Float.

New York.—In an effort to give her Teddy bear its first deep water bath Virginia Peterson, three and one-half years old, toppled from a float anchored off the Claremont Boat club, One Hundred and Eighth street and the North river, and was drowned.

The child was a prime favorite with rascals along the North river and with her mother lived at the boat club, where the latter is employed as maid. Robert Harris of 201 West Twenty-sixth street recovered the body, but resuscitation was impossible even with a pulmonator.

MARINES GO FIRST

Seasoned Veterans to Be Under Colonel Doyen's Command.

MAINLY FROM WEST INDIES.

Colonel Doyen, Fifty-eight Years Old, Is Graduate of Naval Academy—He Has Seen Service in the Philippines and Orient and in Haiti and Santo Domingo.

Washington.—A regiment of veteran United States marines, equipped as regular infantry, will go to France as part of Major John J. Pershing's command. There will be approximately 2,000 men in the regiment, probably the largest numerically that will be engaged on the western front.

Colonel Charles A. Doyen, at present commandant of the United States marine barracks in this city, who has been in the service thirty-four years, will command this new American contingent.

For the most part the marines will be taken from regiments now on duty in Haiti, Santo Domingo and Cuba.



Photo by American Press Association.
COLONEL CHARLES A. DOYEN.

This means that Secretary Daniels will send the pick of "sea soldiers" with General Pershing's command. Every marine in the contingent will be a veteran who has been frequently in action. The American marines have been characterized as the peer of any fighting force on earth.

Colonel Doyen is a graduate of the Naval academy. He is fifty-eight years old, but remarkably active for a man of his years. He has seen service in the Philippines and the orient, in Haiti and Santo Domingo and in other places wherever marines have been in action.

Secretary Daniels would give no inkling as to when the big regiment will go across the Atlantic. This information will be in absolute secrecy, just as the departure of General Pershing and his staff and the force which is to follow them will be closely guarded by the military authorities.

SCHEME TO BEAT U BOAT.

Connecticut Man Would Corral Torpedoes With Magnet.

Waterbury, Conn.—Fred Hemmings has invented a device to offset the danger of the torpedo in its attack from the submarine or otherwise. The device is an electric arrangement of great magnetic power attached to the side of the ship, which will attract the torpedo, bring it to the side of the ship attacked and then lift it to the deck without exploding it.

Mr. Hemmings believes it is destined to revolutionize sea fighting and will make vessels practically immune from torpedo attacks. Lawrence Addicks, chairman of the naval board, is now considering its adoption for service. Theodore Roosevelt has congratulated Mr. Hemmings in a private letter.

PLOWING DAY AND NIGHT.

Tractors and Searchlights Used to Help Cayuga County Farmers.

Auburn, N. Y.—The Cayuga County Home Defense league committee began intensive food production on the farms of the county by putting out tractors which will plow continuously day and night.

Searchlights have been installed, and three crews will go with each machine, working in eight hour shifts. The committee charges farmers \$2.50 per acre to plow and \$3.50 an acre to plow and fit the land, which covers cost of operation and maintenance.

DRAFT SONS TO FARM.

Fathers Plan Land Purchase to Exempt Boys From Army.

Washington.—Casting about for ways to keep their sons, who are a little over twenty-one, out of the army, two rich men in upper New York state have written to Representative Charles B. Smith to know if they purchased farms and put their boys on them would not that exempt their sons from the draft. They proposed to make their sons superintendents of the farms and thus entitled to exemption, they thought, as "agriculturists."

At the war department it was said that this ruse would not get very far, as neighbors could be depended upon to expose it.

FARM HANDS GET \$45 A MONTH, WITH BOARD

That's in South Dakota, Where Bumper Crops Are Predicted.

Sioux Falls, S. D.—Because of a shortage of farm hands it has become necessary in many parts of South Dakota for the women and boys of the households and even the girls to work in the fields. So the farmers and their wives and children are hard at work putting in what is believed to be the greatest acreage of spring wheat in the history of the state.

With the prospect that prices for foodstuffs will continue high during the war the farmers have decided to increase their crop acreage. With a favorable season South Dakota will produce this year the greatest crop of foodstuffs in its history. The residents of towns are preparing to have larger vegetable gardens than ever before, so there is every indication that the state will make a new record in crop production this year.

Farm hands ready for work demand from \$35 to \$45 a month and board, and in many instances the farmers pay these prices. Only a few years ago good farm hands could be had from \$12 to \$20 a month and board, and those who received the higher figure were the envy of their fellows.

NATIVES LOOTED SHIP DRIVEN IN BY A U BOAT

Battle Between Crew and Beach Combers, During Which One of Latter Was Killed.

New York.—Driven by pitiless "tigers of the sea" into the clutches of equally pitiless human tigers lurking along the beaches of northern Spain was the fate of the officers and crew of the schooner Phineas W. Sprague, the captain and chief officer of which vessel arrived in an American port on board a passenger liner from Cadiz.

According to Captain F. A. Jarvis, the Sprague was pursued by a German U boat while coasting through the bay of Biscay and was forced to seek refuge inside the three mile limit. There the vessel was caught by a treacherous current and thrown on the beach near Carboneras, Spain.

No sooner did the residents of that part of King Alfonso's domain see that the schooner was helpless, declares the captain, than they boarded the vessel in droves and commenced to loot her. A battle between the crew of the schooner and the beach combers ensued, during which one of the latter was killed. The Sprague was a total loss.

On board the same vessel which brought Captain Jarvis and his chief officer back to this country were several other survivors of submarine disasters, including Captain Phillip H. Johnson and twenty-one men of the steamship Zward and five men from the schooner Edwin R. Hunt, both of which were destroyed by U boats.

OWL MAKES TOWN DARK.

Alights on Electric Wire, Damaging Lighting Service.

Durham, N. C.—A few nights ago about 9:30 o'clock the electric lights of Morgantown, N. C., began flickering and finally went out. It was later discovered that a little insignificant screech owl was the cause of the trouble, losing its life as a forfeit for attempting to alight on an insulator.

The bird was shown on the streets of the town. Its wings were scorched from tip to tip and its body was burned by contact with the live wire.

When the owl alighted on the insulator the current was started racing to the ground, and the insulator burst. The line wire was burned in two, and when it fell the current was cut off automatically at the switching station.

BREEZE GOT THE MONEY.

Any One May Keep Three One-Dollar Bills if He Finds Them.

Wichita, Kan.—The wind blew fretfully the other day in Wichita. Mrs. Sam Sanders of Whitewater, who had been shopping, did not close her pocketbook securely, and at the corner of Main street and Douglas avenue a five dollar bill and three one-dollar bills were blown out. They rose high in the air, and John Young, a police captain, and others went in pursuit.

A block away a negro overtook the "five." The others had disappeared. Taking the "five" to Mrs. Sanders, he returned it with a bow. "Thank you," said she. "You can have the others if you find 'em."

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Fathers Plan Land Purchase to Exempt Boys From Army.

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